

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 5, 2006, claims 1-23 are pending and claims 1-23 are rejected. Reconsideration is requested for at least the reasons discussed hereinbelow.

The present invention

The present invention is an image forming system, including a printer and a scanner, where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system, wherein: (i) the printer and the scanner respectively comprises a display section, in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats; (ii) the printer and the scanner respectively include a user interface section composed of the display section and an operation section therein; and (iii) when the detection section detects the connection between the printer and scanner, displaying for the system is performed in one of the user interface sections, and an input to the system is carried out *via* one of the user interface sections.

This configuration affords the following remarkably advantageous and unique effects of the present invention. Namely, when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system, the detailed information of the printer side is displayed on the larger display section on the scanner side. This allows a user to easily acquire the detail information. Furthermore, one of the display section is activated in response to detection of connection/disconnection of the printer with the scanner. This prevents the user from being confused by various information displayed on plural displays.

The cited references

Watanabe (USP5,956,160)

Watanabe discloses the following. A printer unit includes: (i) a housing, (ii) a printer engine disposed within the housing of the printer unit and (iii) a printer controller, disposed

within the housing of the printer unit, which is connected to the printer engine and controls the printer engine. Meanwhile, a scanner unit, connected to the printer unit, includes: (i) a housing which is different from the housing of the printer unit, (ii) a scanner engine disposed within the housing of the scanner unit, and (iii) a scanner controller disposed within the housing of the scanner unit, which is connected to the scanner engine' and controls the scanner engine. Further, an operation display of the scanner unit is for displaying errors and status of the printer and scanner units and for executing operation and input of the entire image forming system, and the errors and status of the printer unit is learned from the display located in the printer unit. Thus, a unit which is an object of error or status checking is easily discriminated, and the convenience is improved.

Shunsuke et al. (JP11-030143)

The invention of Shunsuke is characterized in that: (i) at least 2 unitized functional sections are provided; (ii) each of the functional sections are respectively provided with a display section for displaying information related to image processing, and (iii) the information of the image processing is displayed on the display section of one of the functional sections, in accordance with the status of the functional sections which status is managed by status management means. The reference says that the information related to the image processing of each functional section is clearly displayed in this configuration, and the visibility is improved as such.

Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Watanabe (U.S. 5,956,160). The Examiner states that Watanabe discloses an image forming system wherein:

... the first unit includes a control section (fig. 8, controller 100) for controlling each of the display sections (col. 5, lines 32-35, control section 100, controls display for printer and scanner, respectively, as stated in prior paragraphs) in such a manner that at least one of the display sections has different display formats for a non-systematic manner (fig. 1, for non-systematic display the unit of the scanner would display formats for the scanner using the display 102a) and for systematic manner (col. 3, lines 26-31, the display

103 as part of the scanner can be used for displaying information of both the scanner unit 101 and the printer unit 102).

Applicants strongly disagree.

Claim 21 is directed to an image forming system, including a first unit and a second unit, where one of the first unit and the second unit is operable to form an image on a recording medium, and the other of the first unit and the second unit is operable to optically read a document image. Further, the first unit and second unit are operable in combination in a systematic manner as a system.

The examiner contends that the control unit (100) in Fig. 8 of Watanabe corresponds to the control section of claim 21. However, the control unit 100 of Watanabe is not provided in the printer.

Claim 21 recites in pertinent part that:

the first unit includes a control section **for controlling each of the display sections** in such a manner that at least one of the display sections has **different** display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner.

Watanabe **fails** to disclose that "at least one of the display sections has **different** display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner."

Control unit 100 for the scanner unit 101 and the printer unit 102 controls the described functions of the system (col. 5, lines 32-48). Nowhere does Watanabe teach or suggest that control unit 100 controls "**each of the display sections** in such a manner that at least one of the display sections has **different** display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner," as claimed herein.

Further, Watanabe does **not** teach or suggest that even "one of the display sections has **different** display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner," as claimed herein.

Regarding claim 22, the Examiner states that Watanabe discloses that:

... the image forming system comprises a detecting section (fig. 8, scanner controller 100a) for detecting a connection or disconnection of the printer with the scanner (col. 5, lines 55-65, detecting to see if the system is a stand-alone or integral part of the image forming system); the printer and the scanner each comprises a user interface section (fig. 1, interface 103 and 102a) composed of a display section and an operation section (col. 5, lines 20-32, display error to user and operation display 103); and the image forming system further comprises a control section (fig. 8, control section 100) for controlling the respective user interface sections when the detecting section detects a connection of the printer with the scanner (col. 5, lines 20-32), such that display for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces, and input for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces (col. 5, lines 20-32).

Applicants strongly disagree.

The inventions of claims 22 and 23 are characterized in that connection or disconnection of the printer with the scanner is detected, and display for the system is performed on one of the printer and the scanner. On the other hand, Watanabe reference discloses that displaying of errors and status of the printer unit is performed by the display means of the printer unit, but Watanabe *fails* to disclose that the displaying is based on a detection result of connection or disconnection which is a unique characteristic of the present invention.

It is pointed out that the control unit 100 of Watanabe is not wholly provided in the printer. Rather, as illustrated by Fig. 8, the control unit 100 is a logical grouping of components provided in both the scanner 101 and the printer 102.

Further, nothing in the disclosure at col. 5, lines 55-65 teach or suggest that the image forming system of Watanabe comprises a detection system. It appears that input keys 720 of the scanner unit control whether a copy is made from the scanner. No detection system is even hinted for detecting connection or disconnection of the printer with the scanner.

Although both the printer and the scanner each comprises a user interface section composed of a display section and an operation section, Watanabe **fails** to teach or suggest that when the printer with the scanner are connected, that display for the system can be performed **entirely** on either one of the user interfaces, **and input** for the system can be performed **entirely on either** one of the user interfaces. Much less does Watanabe teach or suggest that "when the detecting section detects a connection of the printer with the scanner, such that display for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces, and input for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces," as claimed herein.

Instead, col. 5, lines 20-32 referenced by the Examiner merely disclose that "an error in the status of the printer unit are displayed on both the liquid crystal display section 701 of the operation display section 103 provided on the scanner unit 101 and the LED display section 102a provided on the printer unit 102." That disclosure is substantially deficient for a teaching that "**display** for the system can be performed **entirely on either one** of the user interfaces, **and input** for the system can be performed **entirely on either one** of the user interfaces," as claimed herein.

Claims 22-23 further recite the feature of detecting a connection or disconnection of the printer with the scanner (or first unit with the second unit). The Examiner contends that this is taught by Watanabe at col. 5, lines 20-32. Applicants strongly disagree. It is submitted that col. 5, lines 20-32, does not teach the feature of detecting a connection or disconnection of the printer with the scanner. This portion of Watanabe concerns only how the displays of the printer and the scanner are controlled in the event that an error in the status of the scanner unit or an error in the status of the printer unit occurs.

Applicants further submit that, in the invention of Watanabe, a disconnection of the printer with the scanner is not construed as an "error in the status of the scanner/printer unit". In fact, because the Examiner construes the invention of Watanabe as being directed to a separate scanner unit and a separate printer unit that may be used in combination as an image forming system, a disconnection of the scanner unit from the printer unit would very likely be a desired function rather than an error.

In addition, claims 22 and 23 recite detecting a connection or disconnection of the printer with the scanner, and further recite controlling respective user interfaces when a connection of the printer with the scanner is detected. Hence, even if a disconnection of the printer with the scanner is construed as an "error" (which the Applicant submits is improper), a connection of the printer with the scanner clearly cannot be construed as an "error".

Indeed, it is not seen where the printer unit 102 of Watanabe can perform display for the entire system or perform input for the entire system, as claimed. Thus, Watanabe *fails* to teach or suggest that "**display** for the system can be performed **entirely on either one** of the user interfaces, **and input** for the system can be performed **entirely on either one** of the user interfaces," as claimed herein.

Therefore, it is not seen how Watanabe anticipates any of claims 21-23. Further, it is not seen how the presently claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Watanabe.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) over Watanabe in view of Shunsuke et al. J.P. Application No.11-030143). The Examiner admits that Watanabe **fails** to disclose "an image forming system wherein the printer includes a control section for controlling the respective display sections in such a manner that at least one of the display sections has different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner."

The Examiner admitted that Watanabe (US5,956,160) does not disclose that a printer includes a control section for controlling the display sections of both the printer and the scanner. However, the Examiner contends that the inventions of the independent claim 1 and claims 2 to 20 dependent therefrom are obvious from a combination of Watanabe and Shunsuke et al (JP11-030143) references. However, the present invention of claim 1 is characterized by comprising a control section which allows a printer (printer controller 223) to control display sections of both the scanner and printer (See Fig. 1). This unique characteristic of the present invention is not disclosed in Shunsuke reference. (See Shunsuke et al, paragraphs [0026] to [0030] and (Fig. 3].)

Accordingly, it is not seen how one of ordinary skill in the art would have arrived at the unique characteristic of the present invention described in reference to claim 1 by a combination of Watanabe and Shunsuke references.

According to the recitation of claim 1, the printer includes the control section. Therefore, only the components of control unit 100 that are provided in the printer 102 can be considered for purposes of determining if Watanabe discloses the arrangement of claim 1. Specifically, the scanner controller 100a of the control unit 100 of Watanabe cannot be considered, because the scanner controller 100a is not included in the printer 102, as required by claim 1. Hence, only components 100b and 100c can be considered. As is readily apparent, neither component 100b nor component 100c is disclosed as controlling **both** the display section of the scanner **and** the display section of the printer.

Shunsuke is cited to make up for this deficiency in Watanabe. Shunsuke does not teach a control section provided in a printer, which control section controls the display sections of both the printer and a scanner. It is noted that Shunsuke concerns an integrated copier, and does not even include a printer and a scanner, but instead includes a printer section and a scanner section. Nevertheless, as will be shown below, even if the printer section of Shunsuke is construed as

being a printer, the combination of Watanabe with Shunsuke still fails to render obvious the claimed invention.

The Examiner appears to be interpreting the copier (1) of Shunsuke as being a "printer". However, Applicants respectfully submit that such an interpretation is improper. Shunsuke explicitly discloses that the copier includes a printer section (20) and a scanner section (10). Further, at paragraph [0030], Shunsuke discloses that the scanner section (10) of Fig. 1 corresponds to the "reading scanner section 204" shown in Fig. 3, and the printer section (20) of Fig. 1 corresponds to the "process section 205" shown in Fig. 3.

In light of this explicit disclosure, it is improper to construe the copier (1) of Shunsuke as being a printer. Rather, the copier (1) includes a printer section (20, 205), but is not itself a printer. The copier (1) is the system comprising of the printer section (20, 204), the scanner section (10,204), and other sections.

It is submitted further that only the printer section (20, 205) of Shunsuke can be properly construed as corresponding to the printer recited in claim 1. In order for the Examiner's combination of Watanabe and Shunsuke to render obvious the claimed invention, Shunsuke must therefore disclose an arrangement where the printer section (20) (*corresponding to the process section 205 of Fig. 3*) includes the claimed control section. The *mere* fact that the copier (1) includes a control section is insufficient since claim 1 requires the control section to be specifically included in the printer.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Shunsuke for an image forming system wherein "the printer includes a control section for controlling the respective display sections in such a manner that at least one of the display sections has different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner." Referring now to Fig. 3, it is apparent that the process section 205 (*corresponding to the printer section 20 of Fig. 1*) does not include a

control section which controls a display section of both the process section 205 and the reading scanner section 204. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's interpretation of the CPU 401 as being the claimed control section is untenable. CPU 401 is not provided in the process section 205 (i.e. printer section 20). Rather, CPU 401 is part of the copier (1).

Shunsuke discloses a CPU 401 that is provided independent, and outside, of the scanner section 204 and the process section 205 (printer section). If Watanabe were combined with Shunsuke as suggested by the Examiner, the resultant combination would comprise:

- the scanner unit 101 of Watanabe
- the printer unit 102 of Watanabe, and
- the main unit, control unit, and/or operation unit (100, 200, or 400 -- see Fig. 3 of Shunsuke) of Shunsuke, including a CPU (101, 201, or 401) to control the displays of the scanner unit 101 and printer unit 102.

The above resultant combination of Watanabe and Shunsuke does not arrive at the claimed invention. Claim 1 specifically requires the printer itself to include a control section which controls the display section of the printer, and the display section of the scanner.

Indeed, Shunsuke **fails** to make up for the deficiencies of Watanabe.

Applicants herein are not able to find any disclosure in Shunsuke for a printer having a control section for controlling the respective display sections in such a manner that at least one of the display sections has different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner, as claimed herein. There appears to be no disclosure that different display formats are used by Shunsuke depending upon whether the scanner and printer are used in the non-systematic manner or the systematic manner.

The sections of the Shunsuke cited by the Examiner fail to support the Examiner's conclusion. It is not seen where any disclosure by Shunsuke supports the Examiner's conclusion. If the Examiner intends to maintain this rejection over newly cited art, it is requested that the

finality of this rejection be withdrawn so that concrete issues can be reached over citations to specific paragraphs in Shunsuke that support the Examiner's conclusion.

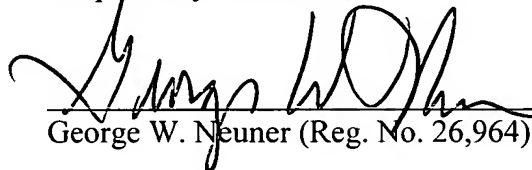
Claims 2-20 are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Thus, it is not seen how the presently claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of any combination of Watanabe and Shunsuke.

In view of the discussion above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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